

March, 2008

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For Immediate Release

2008 Create a Landmark contest open to schools statewide

Contest provides opportunities for lessons in many subjects

Children will be thrilled to see their own work among the exhibits at the Indiana State Museum if their school enters the annual Create a Landmark contest. The research and model-building competition is sponsored by the Indiana State Museum, Indiana Department of Education, and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

Fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade classes create models of historic landmarks that are displayed at the Indiana State Museum for two weeks prior to May 17, the day of judging. On the contest day spokespersons from each class talk to judges about their model and the landmark it represents. Judges base their decisions on creativity, accuracy, depth of research and student responses to judges' questions. The entire class can tour the museum for free before the awards ceremony where children, teachers, parents and friends cheer for the winners as they receive cash prizes.

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Suellen Reed said, "The Create a Landmark Contest provides an outstanding opportunity for meeting a variety of Indiana's Academic Standards in several subject areas through project-based learning. Hands-on projects can unlock the hidden talents of students and will allow them to succeed through planning, problem solving, and critical thinking. The projects will reward creativity and curiosity and will afford opportunities for students to work collectively or independently. We look forward to your students' participation in this exciting contest."

The Create a Landmark competition teaches children to look closely at old buildings and appreciate the importance of history and our built environment. Teachers have used the contest as an art and history project, and also in science lessons, to explain the layers of the earth and how they become building materials; in composition, to write letters to a newspaper editor about an endangered building; in social studies lessons, to teach transportation history, changing religious views and clothing styles; and in math to demonstrate computing volume, engineering principles and construction methods. In the process, children become advocates for understanding and preserving Indiana's architectural heritage. (For a list of teachers' ideas or other teaching tools available from Historic Landmarks Foundation, visit www.historiclandmarks.org.)

The contest is open to fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classes. The class winning first prize receives \$200; second prize winners earn \$150, and third prize wins \$100. The deadline for entering Create a Landmark is March 29, 2008. Models are due at the Indiana State Museum on Saturday, May 3. Contest entry fee is \$10.

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For more information about Create a Landmark and an entry form, call Suzanne Stanis at Historic Landmarks headquarters, 317-639-4534 or 800-450-4534. or visit www.historiclandmarks.org

Contest deadlines:

March 29, 2008: Entry form, entry fee, and list of participating students postmarked

May 3, 2008: Models delivered to the Indiana State Museum.

May 4 through May 16, 2008: Entries on display in the Museum.

May 17, 2008: Judging and awards ceremony; model pick up.